

REMARKS

The Examiner has stated that claims 1-21 are pending in this application, and have rejected claims 1-21 on the grounds of a provisional double patenting rejection with respect to claims 1-21 of copending application number 10/360964 (hereinafter "the '964 application").

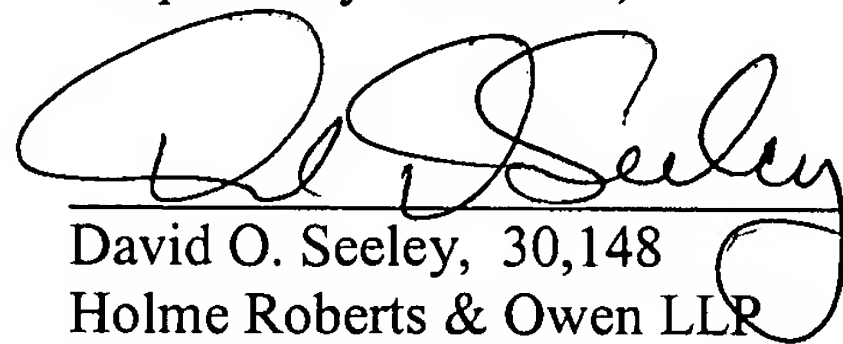
Applicants note that the Examiner has made two errors in connection with this rejections. First, claims 1-21 are not pending in the present application. Rather, the preliminary amendment filed in this case has left pending claims 1-2, 7, and 10-22.

Second, the '964 application contains a preliminary amendment that cancelled original claims 1-74, 80-81, and 85-131. Hence, no claims 1-21 are pending in that divisional application. The claims pending in the '964 application are the result of a restriction requirement filed in application number 09/844261, which is the parent to both the present application and to the '964 application.

Applicants believe that cancellation of claims 1-21 from the '964 application completely resolves all issues raised in the Office Action dated March 17, 2004, and respectfully requests that a Notice of Allowability and Notice of Allowance be issued.

DATED this 26th day of May, 2004.

Respectfully submitted,



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